THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) The project proposal for installation of tubewells under River Lift Project in Balasore, Cuttack and Puri districts of Orissa costing Rs. 51 crores (1989 price level) was posed for German assistance. The project envisages installation of 150 numbers Lift Schemes (100 numbers from Greeks and 50 on Rivers) for creating irrigation potential of 6,000 hectares in kharif and 6,000 hectares in rabi through the former and 10,000 hectares through the latter on rivers like Subarnarekha, Budhabalanga, Baitarni, Bhehmani and Mahanadi and tributaries. The project has been posed for a German assistance of 55 million Deutsche Marks. Agreement has not been signed and further development are awaited.

Central assistance for drought situation in Bihar

796. SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has submitted a memorandum to the Central Government seeking assistance of Rs. 1,117 crore to fight severe drought situation in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) State Government of Bihar has submitted Memoranda seeking Central assistance of Rs. 1200.12 crores for relief measures in the areas affected by drought during the current year. The request of the State Government was considered in the light of existing scheme for financing relief expenditure. Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), 4th quarterly instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 1992-93 and 2 quarterly instalments for the year 1993-94, totalling to Rs. 19.6875 crores have been released, in advance, to the Government of Bihar.

C.A.C.P. recommendations on wheat price

797. SHRI N. E. BALARAM :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has recommended the prices of wheat at Rs. 300/- per quintal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices on Rabi Crops of 1992-93 including Wheat is at present under consideration of the Government.

Income Tax on agricultural income

798. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the issue of income tax on agricultural income was discussed in the special meeting of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research held at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, what important decisions were taken in that meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A reference was made to the Chelliah Committee report on taxes as to who will decide for the purpose of levying income tax on the people who are in farming and not in business and *vice-versa*. A need for clearly defining this was emphasised and for differentiating a farmer having ancestral land depending on agriculture for generations, from the one who had no land in 1950's and bought land to safeguard himself.